{deleted text} shows text that was in HB0266 but was deleted in HB0266S01.

inserted text shows text that was not in HB0266 but was inserted into HB0266S01.

DISCLAIMER: This document is provided to assist you in your comparison of the two bills. Sometimes this automated comparison will NOT be completely accurate. Therefore, you need to read the actual bills. This automatically generated document could contain inaccuracies caused by: limitations of the compare program; bad input data; or other causes.

Representative Kim Coleman proposes the following substitute bill:

## VEHICLE TOWING AMENDMENTS

2015 GENERAL SESSION STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Kim Coleman Senate Sponsor:

#### **LONG TITLE**

## **General Description:**

This bill {modifies the Traffic Code by amending} amends provisions {for use of a} related to tow truck {motor carrier} operations.

## **Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- enacts provisions related to towing vehicles from privately owned lots.

## **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

## **Other Special Clauses:**

{ None } This bill provides a special effective date.

#### **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

### AMENDS:

{41-6a-1406}41-6a-1407, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 2

**72-9-601**, as last amended by Laws of Utah <del>{2014, Chapter 249}</del>}2005, Chapter 2

72-9-602, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 183

72-9-603, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 249

72-9-604, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 249

## **ENACTS**:

**72-9-602.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section  $\frac{41-6a-1406}{41-6a-1407}$  is amended to read:

41-6a-1406} 41-6a-1407. Removal {and impoundment of vehicles -- Reporting}
and notification requirements -- Administrative impound fee -- Refunds -- Possessory lien
-- Rulemaking. (1) If a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is removed or impounded
as provided under Section 41-1a-1101, 41-6a-527, 41-6a-1405, 41-6a-1408, or 73-18-20.1
by an order of} of unattended vehicles prohibited without authorization -- Penalties.

- (1) In cases not amounting to burglary or theft of a vehicle, a person may not remove an unattended vehicle without prior authorization of:
  - (a) a peace officer { or by an order of a person acting on behalf of}:
  - (b) a law enforcement agency { or }:
- (c) a highway authority {, the removal or impoundment of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor shall be at the expense of the owner.
- (2) The vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor} having jurisdiction over the highway on which there is an unattended vehicle; or
  - (d) the owner or person in lawful possession or control of the real property.
  - (2) (a) An authorization from a person specified under Subsection (1) { shall be

- removed or impounded to: (a) a state impound yard; or (b) if none, a garage, docking area, or other place of safety.
- (3) The peace officer may move a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor or cause it to be removed by a tow truck motor carrier that meets standards established: (a) under Title 72, Chapter 9, Motor Carrier Safety Act; and (b) by the department under Subsection (10).
- (4) (a) Immediately after the removal of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor, a report of the removal shall be sent to the Motor Vehicle Division by: (i) the peace officer or agency by whom the peace officer is employed; and (ii) the tow truck operator or the tow truck motor carrier by whom the tow truck operator is employed.
- (b) The report}(a), (b), or (c) shall be in a form specified by the Motor Vehicle Division{ and shall include: (i) the operator's name, if known; (ii) a description}.
- (b) The removal of the unattended vehicle shall comply with requirements of Section 41-6a-1406.
- (3) The removal of the unattended vehicle authorized under Subsection (1)(d) shall comply with the requirements of [Section] Sections 72-9-602.5 and 72-9-603.
  - (4) A person who violates Subsection (1) or (3) is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

    Section 2. Section 72-9-601 is amended to read:
- <u>72-9-601. Tow truck motor carrier requirements -- Authorized towing certificates.</u>
  - (1) In addition to the requirements of this chapter, a tow truck motor carrier shall:
  - (a) ensure that all the motor carrier's tow truck drivers are properly:
  - (i) trained to operate tow truck equipment;
  - (ii) licensed, as required under Title 53, Chapter 3, Uniform Driver License Act; [and]
  - (iii) certified, as described in Section 72-9-602; and
- [(iii)] (iv) complying with the requirements under Sections 41-6a-1406 and 72-9-603; [and]
- (b) ensure that employees of the tow truck motor carrier have cleared the criminal background check as described in Subsections 72-9-602(3) through (6); and
- [(b)] (c) obtain and display a current authorized towing certificate for the tow truck motor carrier, and each tow truck and driver, as required under Section 72-9-602.
  - (2) A tow truck motor carrier may only perform a towing service described in Section

- 41-6a-1406, 41-6a-1407, or 72-9-603, with a tow truck and driver that has a current authorized towing certificate under this part.
  - Section 3. Section **72-9-602** is amended to read:
- 72-9-602. Towing inspections, investigations, and certification -- Equipment requirements -- Consumer information.
- (1) (a) The department shall inspect, investigate, and certify tow truck motor carriers, tow trucks, and tow truck drivers to ensure compliance with this chapter and compliance with Sections 41-6a-1406 and 41-6a-1407.
- (b) The inspection, investigation, and certification shall be conducted prior to any tow truck operation and at least every two years thereafter.
- (c) (i) The department shall issue an authorized towing certificate for each tow truck motor carrier, tow truck, and driver that complies with this part.
  - (ii) The certificate shall expire two years from the month of issuance.
- (d) The department may charge a biennial fee established under Section 63J-1-504 to cover the cost of the inspection, investigation, and certification required under this part.
- (2) The department shall make consumer protection information available to the public that may use a tow truck motor carrier.
- (3) (a) At the tow truck driver's expense, a tow truck driver shall obtain a criminal background check of Utah criminal history from the Bureau of Criminal Identification, and provide a copy of the criminal background check to the department.
- (b) The department shall ensure that a tow truck driver has submitted the criminal background check described in this Subsection (3) as a condition of the tow truck driver's initial and biennial certification.
- (c) The department may deny a tow truck driver's certification if the tow truck driver has been convicted of any felony offense within the previous five years that involves a motor vehicle, fraud, or theft.
- (4) (a) An employee of a tow truck motor carrier who has access to a motor vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor that has been towed shall obtain a criminal background check of Utah criminal history from the Bureau of Criminal Identification, and provide a copy of the criminal background check to the department.
  - (b) The department shall ensure that each tow truck motor carrier employee described

- in Subsection (4)(a) has submitted the criminal background check described in this Subsection (3) as a condition of the tow truck motor carrier's certification.
- (c) The department may deny a tow truck motor carrier's certification if the tow truck motor carrier has not terminated an employee, described in Subsection (4)(a), who has been convicted of any felony offense within the previous five years that involves a motor vehicle, fraud, or theft.
- (5) The department may deny a tow truck motor carrier's certification if the department has evidence that a tow truck motor carrier's tow truck driver is not providing copies of the Utah Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Towing to owners, as described in Subsection 72-9-603(1)(c).
- (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the department shall make rules governing the inspection, investigation, and certification procedures described in this section.

Section 4. Section 72-9-602.5 is enacted to read:

## 72-9-602.5. Towing from privately owned lot -- Notice requirements.

- (1) Except as provided in Subsection (4), a tow truck driver may not tow a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor from a privately owned lot, without the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor owner's consent, unless:
- (a) the tow truck driver or tow truck motor carrier has entered into a contract with the private lot owner or the private lot owner's lessee for tow truck services on the lot; and
  - (b) the private lot owner or the private lot owner's lessee erects:
  - (i) a physical barricade that prevents vehicular access to the lot; or
  - (ii) two signs at each vehicular entrance to the lot, as described in Subsection (2).
- (2) (a) Each sign shall be posted, one beneath the other, and shall have reflective lettering that can be read at a distance of 25 feet.
- (b) The top sign shall be 18 inches wide by 24 inches high and shall state in red lettering:
  - (i) who is allowed to park in the lot;
  - (ii) the name and telephone number of the tow truck motor carrier; and
  - (iii) the website address, "tow.utah.gov."
  - (c) The bottom sign shall be 18 inches wide by 18 inches high and shall have a blue

- towing symbol, as described in Subsection (3).
- (3) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the department shall:
- (a) create an image of the blue towing symbol, to be displayed on a sign described in Subsection (2)(c), that depicts a tow truck with a hook; and
  - (b) post an example of the blue towing symbol on the department's website.
- (4) A private property owner of a privately owned lot, who does not have a physical barricade or signs posted as described in Subsections (1) through (3), may remove an unattended vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor from the lot according to the following procedure:
- (a) the private property owner shall call a certified tow truck motor carrier to remove the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor from the privately owned lot;
- (b) the private property owner shall enter into a single tow agreement with the tow truck motor carrier to remove the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor from the privately owned lot;
- (c) the tow truck motor carrier shall affix a notice to the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor in a conspicuous place warning the owner of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor that if the owner does not remove the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor from the private property within 24 hours, the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor will be towed to an impound lot; and
- (d) the tow truck motor carrier shall wait for the 24 hours to expire, and if the owner of the vehicle, vessel or outboard motor has not removed the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor from the privately owned lot, the tow truck motor carrier shall remove the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor as described in Section 72-9-603.
  - Section 5. Section **72-9-603** is amended to read:
- <u>72-9-603. Towing notice requirements -- Cost responsibilities -- Abandoned</u> <u>vehicle title restrictions -- Rules for maximum rates and certification.</u>
- (1) Except for a tow truck service that was ordered by a peace officer, or a person acting on behalf of a law enforcement agency, or a highway authority, after performing a tow truck service that is being done without the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor owner's knowledge, the tow truck [operator] driver or the tow truck motor carrier shall:
  - (a) immediately upon arriving at the place of storage or impound of the vehicle, vessel,

## or outboard motor:

- (i) send a report of the removal to the Motor Vehicle Division that complies with the requirements of Subsection 41-6a-1406(4)(b); and
- (ii) contact the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the area where the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor was picked up and notify the agency of the:
  - (A) location of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor;
- ({iii) the vehicle}B) date, time, and location from which the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor was removed;
  - (C) reasons for the removal of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor;
  - (D) person who requested the removal of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor; and
- (E) vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor's description, including its identification number for vessel or outboard motor identification number; (iv) the and license number or other identification number issued by a state agency;
- ({vi) the date, time, and place of impoundment; (vi) the reason for removal or impoundment; (vii) the name of the tow truck motor carrier who removed}<u>b</u>) within two business days of performing the tow truck service under Subsection (1)(a), send a certified letter to the last-known address of the registered owner and lien holder of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor obtained from the Motor Vehicle Division or if the person has actual knowledge of the owner's address to the current address, notifying the owner of the:
  - (i) location of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor;
- (ii) date, time, location from which the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor was removed;
  - (iii) reasons for the removal of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor;
  - (iv) person who requested the removal of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor;
- (v) a description, including its identification number and license number or other identification number issued by a state agency; and
- (vi) costs and procedures to retrieve the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor; and ({viii}c) upon initial contact with the {place where the}owner whose vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor {is stored.
- (c) was removed, provide the owner with a copy of the Utah Consumer Bill of Rights

  Regarding Towing established by the department in Subsection (7)(e).

- (2) [(a)] Until the tow truck [operator] driver or tow truck motor carrier reports the removal as required under {this} Subsection ({4}1)(a), a tow truck [operator] driver, tow truck motor carrier, or impound yard may not: (i) (a) collect any fee associated with the removal; {and}or [(ii)] (b) begin charging storage fees. [({5}b) ({a}i) Except as provided in Subsection ({5)(e) and upon receipt of the report, the Motor Vehicle Division shall give notice to the registered owner of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor and any lien holder in the manner prescribed by Section 41-1a-114. (b) The notice shall: (i) state the date, time, and place of removal, the name, if applicable, of the person operating the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor at the time of removal, the reason for removal, and the place where the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is stored; (ii) state that the registered owner is responsible for payment of towing, impound, and storage fees charged against the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor; inform the registered owner of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor of the conditions that must be satisfied before the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is released; and (iv) inform the registered owner and lienholder of the division's intent to sell the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor, if within 30 days from the date of the removal or impoundment under this section, the owner, lien holder, or the owner's agent fails to make a claim for release of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor. (c) Except as provided in Subsection (5)(e) and if the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is not registered in this state, the Motor Vehicle Division shall make a reasonable effort to notify the registered owner and any lien holder of the removal and the place where the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is stored. (d) The Motor Vehicle Division shall forward a copy of the notice to the place where the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is stored. (e) The Motor Vehicle Division is not required to give notice under this Subsection (5) if a report was received by \( \)2)(c), a tow truck operator or tow truck motor carrier {reporting} may not perform a tow truck service {in accordance with Subsection
- (6) (a) The vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor shall be released after the registered owner, lien holder, or the owner's agent: (i) makes a claim for release of without the

72-9-603(1)(a)(i).

vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor {at any office of the State Tax Commission; (ii) presents identification sufficient to prove ownership of the impounded vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor; (iii) completes the registration, if needed, and pays the appropriate fees; (iv) if the impoundment was made under Section 41-6a-527, pays an administrative impound fee of \$350; and (v) pays all towing and storage fees to the place where} owner's or a lien holder's knowledge at either of the following locations without signage that meets the requirements of Subsection (2)(b)(ii):]

- [(A) a mobile home park as defined in Section 57-16-3; or]
- [(B) a multifamily dwelling of more than eight units.]
- [(ii) Signage under Subsection (2)(b)(i) shall display:]
- [(A) where parking is subject to towing; and]
- [(B) (I) the Internet website address that provides access to towing database information in accordance with Section 41-6a-1406; or]
  - [(II) one of the following:]
- [(Aa) the name and phone number of the tow truck operator or tow truck motor carrier that performs a tow truck service for the locations listed under Subsection (2)(b)(i); or]
- [(Bb) the name of the mobile home park or multifamily dwelling and the phone number of the mobile home park or multifamily dwelling manager or management office that authorized the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor {is stored.}
  - (b) (i) Twenty-nine dollars of to be towed.
  - [(c) Signage is not required under Subsection (2)(b) for parking in a location:]
  - [(i) that is prohibited by law; or]
  - (ii) if it is reasonably apparent that the location is not open to parking.
- [(d) Nothing in Subsection (2)(b) restricts the ability of a mobile home park as defined in Section 57-16-3 or a multifamily dwelling from instituting and enforcing regulations on parking.]
- (3) The owner of a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor lawfully removed is only responsible for paying:
  - (a) the tow truck service and storage fees set in accordance with Subsection (7); and
  - (b) the administrative impound fee {assessed} set in Section 41-6a-1406, if applicable.
  - (4) The fees under Subsection (3) are a possessory lien on the vehicle, non-life

essential items that are owned by the owner of the vehicle and securely stored by the tow truck operator, vessel, or outboard motor until paid.

- (5) A person may not request a transfer of title to an abandoned vehicle until at least 30 days after notice has been sent under Subsection (1)(b).
- and disclose all its current fees, rates, and acceptable forms of payment for tow truck service and storage of a vehicle in accordance with rules established under Subsection (\{6\)(a)(iv) shall be dedicated credits to the Motor Vehicle Division; (ii) \$97 of the administrative impound fee assessed under Subsection (6)(a)(iv) shall be deposited in the Department of Public Safety Restricted Account created in Section 53-3-106; (iii) \$20 of the administrative impound fee assessed under Subsection (6)(a)(iv) shall be deposited in the Traumatic Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Fund created in Section 26-54-102; and (iv) the remainder of the administrative impound fee assessed under Subsection (6)(a)(iv) shall be deposited in the General Fund.
- (c) The administrative impound fee assessed under Subsection (6)(a)(iv) shall be waived or refunded by the State Tax Commission if the registered owner, lien holder, or owner's agent presents written evidence to the State Tax Commission that:

  (i) the Driver License Division determined that the arrested person's driver license should not be suspended or revoked under Section 53-3-223 or 41-6a-521 as shown by a letter or other report from the Driver License Division presented within 30 days of the final notification from the Driver License Division; or

  (ii) the vehicle was stolen at the time of the impoundment as shown by a copy of the stolen vehicle report presented within 30 days of the impoundment.
- (d) A tow truck operator 3).
- (b) A tow truck [operator] driver, a tow truck motor carrier, and an impound yard shall accept payment by cash and debit or credit card for a {removal or impoundment}tow truck service under Subsection (1) or any service rendered, performed, or supplied in connection with a {removal or impoundment}tow truck service under Subsection (1).
- {(e) The owner of an impounded vehicle may not be charged}(c) A tow truck driver, a tow truck motor carrier, or an impound yard may charge a 3% credit card processing fee.
- (7) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the Department of Transportation shall:

- (a) subject to the restriction in Subsection (8), set maximum rates that:
- (i) a tow truck motor carrier may charge for the tow truck service of a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor that are transported in response to:
  - (A) a peace officer dispatch call;
  - (B) a motor vehicle division call; and
- (C) any other call or request where the owner of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor has not consented to the removal; and
- (ii) an impound yard may charge for the storage of a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor stored as a result of one of the conditions listed under Subsection (7)(a)(i);
- (b) establish authorized towing certification requirements, not in conflict with federal law, related to incident safety, clean-up, and hazardous material handling;
- (c) specify the form and content of the posting and disclosure of fees and rates charged and acceptable forms of payment by a tow truck motor carrier or impound yard;
- (d) set a maximum rate for an administrative fee that a tow truck motor carrier may charge for reporting the removal as required under Subsection (1)(a)(i) and providing notice of the removal to the registered owner and lienholder of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor as required in Subsection (1)(b); and
- (e) establish a Utah Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Towing form that contains specific information regarding:
  - (i) a vehicle owner's rights and responsibilities if the owner's vehicle is towed;
- (ii) identifies the maximum rates that a tow truck motor carrier may charge for the tow truck service of a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor that is transported in response to a call or request where the owner of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor has not consented to the removal; and
- (iii) identifies the maximum rates that an impound yard may charge for the storage of vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor that is transported in response to a call or request where the owner of the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor has not consented to the removal.
- (8) A tow truck motor carrier or a tow truck driver may not charge fees that are not expressly allowed in the Utah Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Towing.
- [(8)] (9) An impound yard may not charge a fee for the storage of {the}an impounded vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor if:

- ({ii}a) the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is being held as evidence; and ({iii}b) the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor is not being released to the registered owner, lien holder, or the owner's agent even if the registered owner, lien holder, or the owner's agent satisfies the requirements to release the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor under {this Subsection (6).
- (7) (a) An Section 41-6a-1406.
- (10) For a tow truck service of a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor that was requested without the consent of the owner, and that was not ordered by a peace officer, or a person acting on behalf of a law enforcement agency, an impound yard shall make personnel available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to release an impounded vehicle to the owner of the impounded vehicle within two hours of when the owner calls the tow truck motor carrier.
- (11) A complaint about a tow truck driver, a tow truck motor carrier, or an impound yard, regardless of whether the complaint is made by an owner, a law enforcement officer or agency, or a local government, shall be made to the department.

Section 6. Section 72-9-604 is amended to read:

# 72-9-604. Regulatory powers of local authorities -- Tow trucks.

- (1) (a) [Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), a] A county or municipal legislative or governing body may not enact or enforce any ordinance, regulation, or rule pertaining to a tow truck or tow truck motor carrier that [does not conflict with] is not the same as the provisions in this part, Section 41-6a-1406, Section 41-6a-1407, or rules made by the department under this part or under Sections 41-6a-1401 through 41-6a-1408.
- (b) A county or municipal legislative governing body may not charge a fee for the storage of an impounded vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor {not claimed by the registered owner or the owner's agent within the time prescribed by Section 41-1a-1103 shall be sold in accordance with that section and the proceeds, if any, shall be disposed of as provided under Section 41-1a-1104.
- (b) The date of impoundment is considered the date of seizure for computing the time period provided under Section 41-1a-1103.
- (8) The registered owner who pays all fees and charges incurred in the impoundment of the owner's vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor, has a cause of action for all the fees and charges, together with damages, court costs, and attorney fees, against the operator of if the

## county or municipality:

- (i) is holding the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor {whose actions caused the removal or impoundment.
  - (9) Towing, impound fees, and storage fees are a possessory lien on as evidence; and
     (ii) will not release the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor (...)
- (10) (a) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the department shall make rules setting the performance standards for towing companies to be used by the department.
- (b) The rules described in Subsection (10)(a) shall require that the closest available qualified) to the registered owner, lien holder, or the owner's agent even if the registered owner, lien holder, or the owner's agent satisfies the requirements to release the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor under Section 41-6a-1406.
- (2) A tow truck motor carrier {within an applicable county provide the} that has a county or municipal business license for a place of business located within that county or municipality may not be required to obtain another business license in order to perform a tow truck service {on a day for which the Division of Air Quality issues an air quality action alert under Section 19-2-107 that designates mandatory action in response to levels of air pollution that may impact public health. (11) (a) The Motor Vehicle Division may specify that a report required} in another county or municipality if there is not a business location in the other county or municipality.
- (3) A county or municipal legislative body may require an annual tow truck safety inspection in addition to the inspections required under Sections 53-8-205 and 72-9-602 if:
  - (a) no fee is charged for the inspection; and
  - (b) the inspection complies with federal motor carrier safety regulations.
- (4) A tow truck shall be subject to only one annual safety inspection under Subsection (4) be submitted in electronic form utilizing a database for submission, storage, and retrieval of the information.
- (b) (i) Unless otherwise provided by statute, the Motor Vehicle Division or the administrator of the database may adopt a schedule of fees assessed for utilizing the database.
  - (ii) The fees under this Subsection (11)(b) shall: (A) be reasonable and fair; and
- (B) reflect the cost of administering the database.

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Legislative Review Note as of 2-3-15 12:42 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel} 3). A county or municipality that requires the additional annual safety inspection shall accept the same inspection performed by another county or municipality.

Section 7. Effective date.

<u>This bill takes effect on May 12, 2015, except the amendments in this bill to Section</u> 72-9-602 take effect on May 10, 2016.